

QUINCY, ILLINOIS

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# Illinois

## Illinois Towns

### Quincy

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## *Tri-State Civil War Round Table*

*Quincy, Illinois*

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Nothing pleases this writer more, than to see more and more members of our TS-CWRT dig in and uncover local Civil War material and make it available. During the month of February, three of our members made contributions to Lincolniana: Mr. Carl Landrum in a talk to Rotary here in Quincy, Mr. Milo Pearson, Jr., to the Pike County Republican, and Father Landry Genosky, O.F.M. of Quincy College, to the TS-CWRT.

To make this material available to our members as well as to preserve this segment of our heritage for the future, here is Mr. Carl Landrum's, "Abraham Lincoln Comes to Quincy" as given to the Quincy Rotary Club, Tuesday, 18 February 1964:

This city has had a number of very distinguished visitors during its early history, including Williams Jennings Bryan, James Garfield, William McKinley, Rutherford B. Hayes, Theodore Roosevelt and U. S. Grant, to name a few. But to my mind the outstanding visits of historical importance, are those by Abraham Lincoln in 1854 and 1858.

Although a close friend of such leading Quincy citizens as Archibald Williams, Orville Hickman Browning, Abraham Jonas, and Andrew Johnston, with whom he served in the Blackhawk War of 1832, Lincoln did not visit them here in Quincy, nor have occasion to appear here as an attorney.

The Abraham Lincoln that came here with eight companions in 1835 charged with riot, on a change of Venue from Hancock County, was not the man that was destined to live in the White House, but a distant cousin in Carthage of the same name.

After serving a term in the Congress of the United States, Lincoln tried for the Commissionership of the General Land Grant Office in Illinois. Failing to receive this, and rejecting the Governorship of the Oregon Territory, he waited five years before running for the State Legislature from the Seventh District.

During this waiting period he poured his energies into the battle against the extension of slavery, and in turn advanced his own political standing. In his Peoria speech in 1854 he especially objected to the Nebraska law, which divided public opinion more and more. During that summer he replied to a number of speeches made by Senator Douglas on the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, as did Quincy's Orville Browning.

By now the so called Know Nothing party was holding secret meetings and composed for the most part of native laborers, hostile to the immigrants and committed to the anti-slavery cause. In Illinois where the Democratic party had long been the favorite of the immigrant, the Irish remained loyal, while the German went over to the other side, and soon adopted the name "Republican"; when the Know-Nothings began to break up in 1856, they left the Whigs and joined the Republican party. At one time the Quincy Herald published an expose of the Know-Nothing party in Quincy and Mount Sterling. In Mount Sterling, the Herald listed some seventy-one Whig Know-Nothings, including General James W. Singleton, later a resident of Quincy. Here in Quincy, the Herald said the Know-Nothings were holding secret meetings at midnight in the brick building erected by Joel Rice, occupied then by the Amos Green and James Pittman Lumber Company, on the east side of Fifth street, just north of the alley, between Hampshire and Vermont. Colonel William



Richardson speaking at the Court House on Fifth street, promised an expose on the secret party at the local level, but it turned out to be pretty tame according to the Quincy Whig.

Here the Nebraska question was being discussed almost nightly by speakers, pro and con, in the Kendall building on the southwest corner of Sixth and Maine, the only hall large enough at that time to hold such a large gathering. This group included such orators as Singleton, who was Orville Browning's political manager, Browning, William Carlin, son of Governor Carlin, Archibald Williams, and Stephen A. Douglas. Douglas was to speak here on behalf of the Democratic nominee, and Abraham Jonas, leading Jew in Illinois and head of his party here, asked Lincoln for help. Jonas, Quincy Postmaster from 1849 to 1852, was convinced that Lincoln was the answer to Douglas and could further the cause of Archibald Williams, Whig candidate for Congress.

Lincoln had already announced his intention of running for the General Assembly, and the Quincy Whig had commented that it was a pity that Lincoln did not fill the seat held by Judge Douglas. On the way to Quincy by stage, Lincoln heard rumors in Jacksonville that Morgan County was dissatisfied with Know-Nothingism, and wrote his friend, Richard Yates, later Governor of the State, to secure letters that would deny any such connection. Actually the same story was circulated by Colonel I. N. Morris, of Quincy, about Lincoln's 1854 visit here, at the time of his arrival in 1861 in Washington.

Jonas met the stage, which arrived after dark, and escorted Lincoln first to the Browning mansion at 7th and Hampshire for dinner, and then to the Kendall building at Sixth and Maine. Here he addressed a full house on the Nebraska question, covering the entire history of slavery, leading to the Missouri Compromise, and according to the Quincy Whig, "showing that it had ever remained in the hearts of the people a sacred thing which no ruthless hand should have dared to destroy". The Whig said Mr. Lincoln left a most favorable impression and was one of the truly great men of Illinois, whereas the Quincy Herald said Lincoln could not possibly receive the vote of any man who served his country in the Mexican War, because Lincoln had taken the side of the enemy. The Herald also said that Lincoln had addressed Quincy abolitionists, Whigs and Know-Nothings. The Western Patriot, another Quincy newspaper, supporting Archibald Williams, wondered how any candid man after listening to this address could vote for Richardson as opposed to Williams, and pronounced Lincoln's address an excellent production.

After the talk at Kendall Hall, Lincoln, Jonas and several others went to an oyster-house, possibly the one next to the Tremont, returning later to the Quincy House, where Lincoln stayed overnight. He later said that before retiring he checked with the stage driver for the departure time early the next morning and did not attend any Know-Nothing meeting. It is interesting to note that in 1856 Lincoln helped George P. Floyd obtain the lease of the Quincy House.

Lincoln was easily elected to the Legislature, although his friend Archibald Williams, lost to William Richardson for the seat in the Senate.

Lincoln now decided to aim for the United States Senate and began speaking almost entirely outside his own district. The Republican Mass Meeting held in Quincy in 1856 heard talks by Owen Lovejoy, and Richard Yates, but Lincoln, pleading a case in Urbana, could not be present as he had hoped. Then in June of 1858, the Republican Convention in Springfield, decided on Lincoln as the candidate to succeed Douglas in the Senate, and Lincoln replied with his "House Divided" speech. This nomination cleared the way for the historic debates, and contributed to his presidential stature, although its primary objective at the time was the Senatorial race. Lincoln that summer gave a total of some sixty-three talks and Douglas one hundred and thirty. One newspaper wrote that the prairies were on fire!

Abraham Jonas asked his friend to give another of his sledge hammer like speeches in Augusta that summer in July, 1858 at a district convention to nominate Jackson Grimshaw for Congress and John Tillson for State Senator. A large



delegation accompanied by Jacob Steeg's Brass Band attended from Quincy. Lincoln also spoke in Pittsfield, Macomb and Beardstown.

When the dates were announced for the debates including the one in Quincy on October 13th, Lincoln's friend, Henry Asbury, wrote and proposed certain questions to ask Judge Douglas. Asbury suggested that Lincoln ask if Douglas believed the people of a United States Territory could exclude slavery prior to the formation of a state constitution. Lincoln replied that it would be difficult to get Douglas to say that slavery could not exist in the territories unless the people desired it, and so give it protective territorial legislation. Lincoln's political advisors felt it unwise to ask this question, but in the Freeport debate, the question was asked and Douglas could hardly wait for the chance to answer. The answer, given without wise reflection, was to win the immediate Senatorial election but cost the Little Giant the Presidency.

Many went to hear Lincoln speak in Beardstown on August 20th and in Augusta where Jackson Grimshaw and Benjamin Prentiss also spoke and at Galesburg on October 7th where both Archibald Williams and Prentiss appeared.

Later in 1883 Henry Asbury was to write of the debate that if they were compelled to listen again, almost thirty years later, they would consider it a tax on their patience. Yet on that day in 1858, they came from miles around, by horse, train and boat. The night before, Judge Douglas arrived at the railway depot at nine and a half o'clock, amid the booming of cannon, and a display of torch-lights and transparencies, and the enthusiastic shouts of not less than three thousand live Democrats. At least the Herald said there were three thousand. The two papers usually differed in their count. Four hundred blazing torches, bands of music, and a procession more than half a mile long escorting Douglas to the Quincy House, and then the crowd assembled in the Square to hear Doctor Moses M. Bane, who would in 1862 lead the 50th Illinois at Shiloh.

The next morning the Republicans assembled to welcome Old Abe, coming in by train from Macomb. The procession came up Broadway past the Richardson house on the corner of Fourth, and then marched and countermarched thru the principal streets, led by thirty two young ladies on horseback, each carrying a flag with the name of a state on it. At the Court House, on Fifth street, a Reception Committee welcomed Mr. Lincoln, and a bouquet of flowers was presented by the Republican ladies of Quincy thru the hands of John Tillson, candidate for Senator. Mr. Lincoln replied he was glad to see the ladies everywhere took part in this contest. A mixed choir sang "Columbia, Gem of the Ocean" and the speaker was allowed to go to the Browning residence for lunch before the debate. Orville Browning was away that day, attending court in Carthage.

At two o'clock some twelve or fifteen thousand persons assembled around the stand in the park, where they were addressed by Mr. Lincoln for an hour, followed by Judge Douglas for an hour and a half, and then the response by Mr. Lincoln for half an hour. Photographs of Douglas were sold in the park, as were Lincoln badges and large Douglas pennies.

The Quincy Whig reported that Lincoln could be heard easily, speaking in a voice that rang out loud and clear, although he had been speaking almost daily for a hundred days, sometimes three and four hours at a time. His voice was a high tenor, with extraordinary carrying power. Judge Douglas could hardly be heard, his voice worn to a frazzle, to quote one listener. Both men asked the indulgence of the audience, and the comments from the crowd were few. The only disagreeable incident occurred when the grandstand erected for the ladies collapsed injuring several, but not seriously. Carl Schurz, later a Major General in the Union army, reported that although Mr. Lincoln's gestures were awkward, his speech was not. The attitude of the audience convinced Schurz that every word Lincoln spoke was understood at the most remote point in the park. Lincoln said of the famed Dred Scott decision that it covered the whole ground and while it occupied it, there was no room for even the shadow of a starved pigeon to occupy the same ground.



"Because we think it (slavery) wrong, we propose a course of policy that shall deal with it as a wrong. We deal with it as with any other wrong, in so far as we can prevent its growing any larger, and so deal with it that in the run of time there may be some promise of an end to it."

After the debate, the crowd dissolved, the brass bands began to play again, several of them within hearing of each other, and Mr. Lincoln walked over to Adam Helmer's barber shop on Hampshire near Sixth for a shave, before going on to the Browning residence. Later that evening Lincoln went down to the Farmer's Hotel at 9th and Hampshire where he rented a room for an hour's rest before returning to the party and celebration.

Lincoln was interviewed that night in the Quincy House by the humorist, Petroleum V. Nasby. Sitting with his boots off, and his coat and vest over a chair, he answered the writer's question, if he expected to defeat Douglas. He said: "You can't overturn a pyramid, but you could undermine it, and that he was trying to do."

A heavy rain fell over the state on election day, November 2nd, although it did not keep the voters home, and more went to the polls that day than in the presidential election two years before. From Quincy, Lincoln's friend, Jackson Grimshaw, reported that it had rained "rain and railroad, Irish and pro-slavery Know-Nothings, and worse than all, Seward and Greely Republicans who voted for Douglas". In Quincy there were 2,112 votes cast, and in Adams County, a total of 4,501 votes with 2,915 for Lincoln and 3,004 for Douglas.

Lincoln wrote his friend, Henry Asbury, that the fight must go on, and the cause of civil liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one or even one hundred debates. He said another explosion would soon come.

It is possible that Abraham Lincoln was first considered for the presidency here in Quincy. On December 26, 1858, Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, came to Quincy to deliver a public address. Afterwards, the leading Republicans of the town, John Wood, Archibald Williams, Orville Browning, Henry Asbury and Abraham Jonas met with Greeley in Jonas's office on the southeast corner of Fifth and Hampshire to talk about the presidential election of 1860. Asbury mentioned Lincoln as a possible choice for the party, with the suggestion falling on deaf ears. No one was interested, and Asbury reported he felt a little mortified. Then finally someone said perhaps Lincoln might do for Vice President, and Jonas said that perhaps there might be something in Asbury's suggestion after all!

Mr. Milo Pearson, Jr., well known in this area, submitted this bit of Lincolniana to the Pike County (Illinois) Republican, 12 February 1964.

Some 125 years ago there appeared on the Pike County scene a lean, lanky figure who was destined to cast his shadow across America during the most trying time in our nation's history--Abraham Lincoln, that budding young lawyer from New Salem hill, high above the Sangamon, was here to practice law in the early Pike County courts.

The case in which he would have part came up September 11, 1839: Manly Thomas vs. Argyle and Hodgen in Pike Circuit court. Young Lincoln represented the appellant and William A. Grimshaw, a noted Pike County attorney, the appellee. The case was tried in court and a judgment of note and interest of \$65.04 was awarded to the appellee. Thus the fledgling barrister who was destined to become immortal in the eyes of the world lost his first case here in the Pike County court.

Young Lincoln on the next day, the 12th of September, was back in the fray on another case. This time he sat in the offices of E. D. Baker, who later served so valiantly in the war between the States, and penned two pleas that were signed by Col. Baker in a case involving J. H. and G. W. Finch vs. J. Gardner. This lawsuit was to collect for horses, harness, and an omnibus that was used on a mail route between Columbus and Naples.

A little over a year later, in April of 1840, the youthful prairie lawyer,



who by this time was becoming acquainted here in the "Kingdom of Pike," had a part in the case for which he had prepared the papers mentioned above in the Baker law office. The case was tried by jury here in the Pike County court and the plaintiff, Finch and Finch, was awarded \$275.00. Again we find the future emancipator on the losing side as he was associated this time with the noted lawyer of the western Illinois frontier, William A. Grimshaw and another barrister by the name of Wheeler, in the interest of the defendant Gardner. The team of Grinshaw, Lincoln, and Wheeler tried to arrest the judgment but they were overruled.

And so it was with the early record of the rail splitter as he invaded the halls of justice of early Pike County. In that day it was said that it was not recorded nor considered too important who the lawyers were that penned the legal briefs so there is no doubt that young Lincoln of the old Eighth Circuit, which lay to the east of the Illinois river, did appear in the Pike courts and in the offices of the early legal lights of the frontier Pike court on other occasions when he was not busy in his own circuit (the Eighth) of which Sangamon County was a part; but due to the fact that he was virtually unknown as an attorney at this early date and that names of the lawyers were not always considered to be important we find no cases recorded other than the above mentioned cases (See "Lincoln, Day-by-Day", a U. S. government publication.)

Lincoln on his jaunts into the western Illinois country would make his trips sort of a "busman's holiday". While postmaster and merchant in the village of New Salem he had known the Shastid family who had resided in the Menard County town and who were rugged pioneers of the western border. In later years the Shastid family, as the village of New Salem faded into oblivion, moved west to the county seat town of Pittsfield, fast becoming a trade center of west central Illinois. To the warmth of the home of "Mother" Shastid, to whom he had delivered letters and sold groceries, came this lonely, moody young man from New Salem hill.

It was here that "Dad" Shastid made him acquainted with another homeless boy from the "Bee Creek Country" of south Pike who by this time had risen from "printer's devil" to be the proud editor of that aggressive news sheet of the western frontier, "The Pike County Free Press".

Little did the gaunt man from the valley of the Sangamon and the fiery youth from the Bee Creek hills know that in the coming years there held for them a relationship that would encompass the re-birth of an America, kindled by the wrath of the "War of the Rebellion."

It was here in the 1830s that Abraham Lincoln met his future private secretary, John Nicolay. And as we look into the crystal ball of yesteryear we see the third member of that great triumvirate, still another star in that firmament of greatness, John Hay, Pittsfield school boy who shook the hand of "the tycoon," as they called him, in the shadow of the Pittsfield public square. And so the trilogy of the inner offices of the executive mansion of the war years first came to know each other here in historic Pike County.

Lincoln had served in the Black Hawk War as the captain of a company of volunteers from Menard County and New Salem. As Capt. Lincoln marched his raw troops west from the valley of the Sangamon to the part of Beardstown on the Illinois river his trail crossed that of a volunteer company from historic Atlas in Pike County under the able command of that pioneer of the Atlas hill, Co. Wm. Ross. Together they marched their troops to the northwest to do battle with the cunning little savage of the Mississippi valley. Out of this chance meeting, while awaiting orders for their soldiers, Col. Ross of Atlas, who had played such an important role in the erection of the new county of Pike, and Capt. Lincoln of the New Salem volunteers found that they had much in common and became close friends.

We may rightfully assume then that when Lincoln would be in Pike County visiting his New Salem friends the Shastids, that he also may have swapped stories with his former wartime buddie, Col. Ross, at his palatial mansion on the slopes of Atlas hill.

It is a matter of historical record that it later years during the senatorial



campaign of 1858 that prior to his speech on the Pittsfield square, Mr. Lincoln spent the night at the home of Col. Ross, who by this time had moved with the county seat from Atlas to Pittsfield. History has recorded that following a three-day speaking tour of Scoot County and Winchester, Mr. Lincoln was conducted to the ferry and at Florence in Pike County he was met by a delegation of Whigs from Pittsfield and escorted to the home of the Pike County statesman and his friend, Col. Ross, at the east edge of Pittsfield where he spent the night.

On still other occasions he no doubt visited at the home of another old acquaintance of the Indian campaign who lived not too far from the Ross mansion in a fine old country home in Newburg township, Capt. Ben Westlake. There is a legend existing that just could have happened. It, like many others that have grown up across the years, cannot be proved nor disproved. There is a certain local coloring that surrounds these legends and as they are passed from generation to generation they become so real that we encounter many people that accept them for the truth.

This legend, which seems so possible, tells us that Mr. Lincoln one day walked down the Old Ft. Edwards trail presumably from Atlas to the village of Fairfield (later Pleasant Hill) where, as he rested at the town pump on the brow of the hill, he made inquiry as to a former acquaintance of his whom he hoped to visit, but upon learning that this party no longer lived in Pleasant Hill, after resting and refreshing himself he is said to have walked north across the hill country to Pittsfield, the county seat.

As a legend that could have been, this one holds great possibilities, due to the fact that Mr. Lincoln had served in the Illinois legislature with Rep. Richard Kerr from Pleasant Hill and while together at Vandalia they had become close friends. Rep. Kerr had lived in Pleasant Hill and was an extensive land owner as well as a member of the general assembly from this area but later he moved to Texas, which would account for the fact that Lincoln did not find him during this legendary foray into the Pleasant Hill country. Here again there is no documentary record to prove this legend, but to those of us that love the colorful possibility of what might have been, there is much food for thought.

Fact or fiction, call it what you may, Pike County does have a rich heritage of Lincolniana, and it deserves to be a part of the Lincoln Heritage Trail recently set up in the states of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. Perhaps it is not too late yet to add historic Pike County. It is inconceivable that this area so rich in Lincolniana, that played such an important part in the life of the immortal Lincoln in his formative years, would be left out of this historic pilgrimage for it was here that he did more, than just "pass this way".

Finally to round out this trio, Father Landry Genosky, O.F.M., gave the following talk to the TS-CWRT, Wednesday, 19 February 1964.

#### "Lincoln, Murder and Verse"

The other night, one of the Fathers asked me what I was going to talk about at our meeting tonight. I told him. "Lincoln: Murder and Verse". I think he deliberately misunderstood me. He asked too naively: Lincoln: Murder and Worse?"

Actually, he came closer to the truth than I then imagined. For as the talk developed, it slowly shaped into a kind of Pandora's box, out of which bits of information escaped. Whether these will be blessings or not--there is one consolation, Remember in Pandora's box, hope always remained.

Take smoking, for an instance. There is hardly an adult alive today who has not heard of the Surgeon General's recent report on "Cigarettes and Cancer". Yet, for Abraham Lincoln the report came 125 years too late. Had Lincoln access to that report in 1839, he and his colleague, T. Lyle Dickey, attorneys for the defense in the Fraim Murder Case, might have introduced it as supporting evidence.



Why? William Fraim murdered a man because he refused to stop smoking. Here's the story.

William Fraim--or was it Fielding Frame as he called himself?--we'll never know, he could only signature his writing with an "X"--was a 20 year old--a deck-hand on the Illinois River steamboat, the Hero. In the winter of 1837-1838, his boat landed at Erie, between the towns of Frederick and Beardstown. While ice locked the steamboat in port, Fielding Frame and crew lounged in a Frederick tavern.

On the night 17 February 1838, Fielding Frame and a fellow laborer, a good natured German, William Neathammer, did some heavy drinking. From then on things became confused. One certainly emerged. Fielding commanded Neathammer to stop smoking. Neathammer refused. A fight--and Neathammer felled dead, stabbed by the insistent Fielding.

The law moved in. Fielding was hurried to the newly completed log and brick jail at Rushville. Indicted by a grand jury in 1838, Fielding finally came to trail in Carthage, on a change of venue. Quincyan Judge James H. Ralston presided. Henry L. Bryant prosecuted for the State. T. Lyle Dickey, who would see service in the Mexican and Civil Wars, and whose daughter would marry Brig. General W. H. L. Wallace, victim of Shiloh and Abraham Lincoln, licensed to practise law less than three years earlier (9 September, 1836), defended the defenseless Frame.

The trial opened 23 April 1838. It carried through the 24th. Too many witnesses. They jury rendered the verdict: murder in the first degree.

Lincoln filed a motion in arrest of Judgment for eight specific reasons. 25 April 1838, Lincoln argued for his motion. Judge Ralston overruled the motion. The sentence? Hanging--on Saturday, 18 May 1839 between the hours of noon and two o'clock, on a gallows to be erected within one mile of Carthage. The 18th of May, the selected site--a ravine, lining whose sides stood crowds of spectators. William Frame hung for his crime. Moral: Don't insist too strongly that a man stop smoking.

In an exclusive interview, 18 October 1937, Lane Newberry, the "Lincoln Artist" stated in the Herald-Whig that during the Fraim trial in Carthage, Lincoln visited the Brownings. Did this visit take place in Quincy? 5 March 1961, Lane Newberry answered:

"In answer to your letter of Feb. 28th, I must say a little too much water has gone over the dam to remember what I said in 1937 but at that time I used almost exclusively papers of the Illinois Historical Society as published in their Journal."

No doubt, Lincoln visited the Brownings at Carthage, where, most likely, Browning was at court.

21 July 1860, Lincoln wrote to Abram Jonas:

"I had never been there (Quincy) before (31 October - 2 November 1854) and never afterwards, till the joint devate with Douglas in 1858."

Carthage links Quincy with Abraham Lincoln in two other instances--of another sort.

Earlier in 1937, 28th of May to be exact, a Karl Rasmussen submitted a report to the Historical Records Survey of Des Moines, Iowa.

"...is there", he asks, "a coincidence, an identity of names?"

"In a hidden corner of the office of the circuit clerk of Adams County was recently found the musty files and papers of a case which was tried in the court house in Quincy in the year 1835.....this particular file would not have attracted attention but it bore the title: 'The People of the State of Illinois vs. Abraham Lincoln and others.'"

From the indictment this information was forthcoming:

"The Grand Jurors....upon their oaths Present that Abraham Lincoln ( and eight others named)....being evil disposed persons on the 14th day of November in the year of Our Lord 1835, with force and arms at and within the county of Hancock, aforesaid, unlawfully, riotously, and with violence in and upon one Jabez A. Beebe.."



This comment is then made by Rasmussen:

"The defendants on these suits must have been well known characters throughout this part of the county, as their reputations extended at least to two counties of western Illinois (Hancock and McDonough)."

On a change of venue, the case was tried in Quincy. William A. Richard prosecuted for the State; Richard M. Young, presided as judge. Each of the eight were found guilty, fined \$10, and released.

Yes, you're guess is right. It is a coincidence. It is an identity of names. This is not Abraham Lincoln, whose month we're commemorating tonight. There have been Lincolns in Carthage at least since 1830, when a James Lincoln served on the Petit Jury. It is interesting to note that Gregg, the Hancock Historian, listing some of the names of pioneers from the Pioneer Association Records, does not mention any Lincolns but he does mention, Jabez A. Beebe, coming to Carthage in 1831 from Connecticut.

For me, this incident cleared up another mystery. Archbishop Ireland in his Memoirs recalls a conversation with the pioneer, circuit-riding, Catholic priest, Father Irenaeus St. Cyr.

When St. Cyr talked with the St. Paul Archbishop, old age had struck the once-vigorous missionary. He did recall, however, and stated emphatically that Abraham Lincoln decades ago had served his Mass. And he spoke the truth. Abraham Lincoln did serve his Mass. Father St. Cyr was in this area. His so-called "Lost Journal" (now in my possession) attests to this fact. However, and this is my opinion, the Abraham Lincoln who served his Mass was the "man from Carthage" not the "man from Illinois". Too bad, that just a few years ago, one of the oldest descendants of this line of Lincolns died in Carthage. I wonder what stories went to the grave with her?

Lane Newberry certainly spoke the truth when he attested to Lincoln's friendship with the Brownings. Isn't it one of the ironies of history that people relish fiction more than fact?

Take Ann Rutledge--her romance with Lincoln. So little foundation in fact. Yet, a train bears her name. How few know anything about Lincoln's romance with Mary Owens--which is fact. Though, I do admit that from the description Lincoln gives of her in 1839, a "Zephyr" named after her would be incongruous.

Some enterprising railroad official, however, should look into the life of Eliza Browning. She does deserve a memorial. I doubt if there is a woman among Lincoln's acquaintances who held his friendship and confidence more constantly and over a longer period of years than the charming Eliza Caldwell Browning.

The young Orville Hickman Browning, born just one day less than three years before Lincoln (10th of February 1806), fifteen days after his 30th birthday (25 February 1836) married the Kentucky daughter of Major Caldwell, a kinsman of John Calhoun. He brought her to a log cabin, she describes: 10 feet square, 2 stories high having 2 stove pipes through the roof 4" apart. Here the Kentucky lady started her married life. Mildly she complains that she had to give up her "mint slings" (gin mixed with sprigs of mint). "Four months since a puff on a pipe", she adds!

No wonder she followed her newly elected State Senator husband to Vandalia for the winter session of the Legislature. Perhaps, this is where Lincoln first met her. Regardless, that winter as well as the next, Lincoln was a frequent visitor at the Browning home. How well she impressed Lincoln can be gathered from a letter he sent to her in the Spring of 1838. To understand Mrs. Browning, remember, as Theodore Pease, so aptly put it. "One would think it written to a sedate matron. Instead, he writes to a bride of two years."

In this letter, which sold in 1914 for \$1,250, a fabulous sum for a Lincoln letter in those days, Lincoln reveals a "Half-mocking picture of himself, drawn into a semi-engagement with a young lady he had met some three years before on her visit to Springfield. At that time, he found her "intelligent and agreeable".



"On her second visit, he was unpleasantly surprised to find his Miss Owens a 'fair match for Falstaff.'" "Nothing", he wrote, "could have received her present bulk in less than thirty-five or forty years...." Feeling bound to his word, Lincoln held back, then summoning moral courage, proposed. To his astonishment and embarrassment, he was flatly rejected.

Years later (15 November 1872) in a letter to Isaac Arnold, Mr. Browning recalled the letter.

"We were very much amused with it, but both Mrs. Browning and myself, supposed it to be fiction; a creation of his brain; one of his funny stories without any foundation in fact.....

.....I think it was in 1862, that a gentleman, who was collecting materials for a biography of Lincoln, having heard of this letter, called on Mrs. Browning in Washington City and requested a copy. She declined....only a few days after, she informed (Lincoln) of the request....She then first learned from him that the narrative of the letter was not fiction. (He) desired that it should be withheld for the present."

Mrs. Browning respected his wishes. After Lincoln's death, she showed it to Lincoln's friend, Cal Lamon. Only after poverty and indebtedness, caused by a love for an adopted daughter, forced her to part with the letter.

Her friendship with Lincoln grew. How far a letter sent to her on the 11th of December, 1839, signed by J. J. Hardin and endorsed by Abraham Lincoln, was actually the work of Abraham Lincoln, we can only conjecture. Here again we find the serio-comic style of the previous letter.

"The fact is," the letter reads in part, "that in your absence, business will not progress with its accustomed facility....There is no doubt, if you were here, there would extensive improvement in the important business of visiting, conversation and amusement."

But Lincoln, "one of the petitioners" did not turn to Mrs. Browning only for "visiting, conversation and amusement".

On that sad day, in 1862, the 20th of February, when Willie--Lincoln's favorite son passed away, when Lincoln could only burst into tears and cry out to his private secretary: "Well, Nicolay, my boy is gone--he is actually gone"--in that hour, he could only think of the Brownings. They too knew the sorrow of losing a son.

Mr. Browning was put in full charge of the funeral. During those trying days, for almost a week, Mrs. Browning stayed at the White House, caring for Mrs. Lincoln, who was so grief stricken that she was unable to attend the funeral.

Long years after, as Theodore Pease attests, Mrs. Lincoln bore her testimony to Mrs. Browning's influence on Abraham Lincoln. Pease conjectures and so can we on how far history may have changed if Lincoln had had the "able, firm, temperate-minded Mrs. Browning" for a wife rather than the "Tempestuous Mary Todd".

And with all this, Mrs. Browning and Emma, the adopted girl, she loved so much, both died in poverty. Such, Pease concludes "is the caprice of the frontier, breaking those it seemed delighted to honor".

Are you still with me. If you are not yet tired of these lives that brushed the greatness of Lincoln, let's lift again the lid of Pandora's box.

We'll begin the story with a murder mystery in which a corpse plays a leading role or as Lincoln said of it, "It may well be doubted whether a stranger affair ever really occurred." The story will reveal another facet of Lincoln's character. This story begins, in Springfield, finds its way to a Quincy newspaper, and ends with a letter read by Lincoln a few short days before the tragedy at Ford's Theater.

Little was known of this case, until Ward Lamon wrote: (1895)

"In the summer of 1841 (June 16-18) Mr. Lincoln was engaged in a curious case. The circumstances impressed him very deeply with the insufficiency and danger of 'circumstantial evidence', so much so that he not only wrote the account of it to (Joshua) Speed, but another more extended one, which was printed in a newspaper published at Quincy, Illinois....."



Search then began to find this article. Soon it turned up, having appeared in the Quincy Whig, 15 April 1846.

In this write-up we see Lincoln at his lucid best. No wonder so many juries rendered verdicts agreeable to Lincoln. Here, in clear intelligible language, he states the case, adding descriptive details that bring the full picture to the reader.

The story, uncomplicated is briefly this.

On the 2nd of June, 1841, four men went out to look over the town. Three were brothers, all "industrious, retiring, sober men: Archibald about 30 years old, Henry, 31 or 32 and William, a widower, still older. The fourth, Archibald Fisher, a frugal school master and carpenter, gave the impression of having accumulated much money."

Town sight seeing over, they headed for the woods, northwest of Springfield toward Hickox's mill on Spring Creek. There, Fisher left the path to walk into a thicket. William and Archibald Traylor followed him. What happened still remains a mystery. Within an hour or so, William and Archibald Traylor returned to Springfield to report Fisher was lost.

Friday, June 11th the Postmaster at Springfield received a letter. It stated William had returned home without Fisher. Moreover, he was boasting that Fisher was dead, and had willed Traylor some \$1500. The letter was made public. Then started one of Springfield's most intensive searches: cellars, wells, pits, freshly dug graves (even those of dead horses and dead dogs) were searched and uncovered. Saturday afternoon no sign of Fisher or his body. Springfield teemed with excitement. Monday, Henry Traylor was brought under arrest to Springfield.

The furor mounted. Henry Traylor accused his two brothers of the murder of Fisher and most likely buried the body near Hickox's mill. The mob moved toward Hickox's. Evidence seemed to substantiate Henry's testimony. The mill dam was cut down. The creek partially drained. No body. Archibald and William were arrested.

Lincoln returned Wednesday, June 16th, to find Springfield wildly hunting for the body of Archibald Fisher "and breathing lynch law". Archibald and William were quickly brought to trail, Logan, Boker and Lincoln, their defense attorneys. Henry, under oath, repeated his charge,---swore he saw the dead body.

The defense then introduced a Dr. Gilmore who testified that Fisher was at his home. The following Monday, the corpse, very much alive, arrived in Springfield.

Henry refused to talk further of the case. William died less than a year later. Archibald "pined away" a year after William.

The reaction of the town--at first--perhaps, best expressed by Hart, the little drayman:

"It was too damned bad to have so much trouble, and no hanging after all."

The following day, Tuesday, June 22, the town of Springfield assembled, in meeting. They apologized. No one paid for the damage to Hickox's mill. In 1845, Lincoln was still trying to collect his fee of \$100 for defending the brothers.

Lincoln attempted a solution, Fisher wandered away in mental derangement; Dr. Alexander Shields introduces an elopement which failed to materialize; Dr. Nathan S. Davis III has a solution but many details in this case, as well as the payment of the fee still await full satisfaction.

That's the story with later solutions. The story produced another mystery. To whom had Lincoln sent this article for publication in the Herald-Whig. Some men have pointed to Abram Jonas. As late as 1952, in an introduction to a reprint of the article (February 12, 1952) in the Herald-Whig the author states Nehemiah Bushnell "may have been responsible for the publication of the Lincoln letter".

Today, the evidence is incontrovertible. The article was sent to Andrew Johnston, a prominent attorney of Quincy, friend of Lincoln and uncle of George Pickett of Gettysburg fame.

Andrew Johnston, a Virginian, whose kindness Lorenzo Bull commemorates, Johnston, just a year Lincoln's junior. studied at the University of Virginia 1827-1829,



taking such courses as Modern Languages, Ancient Languages, Mathematics, Chemistry, Moral Philosophy, and Natural History. No wonder he was prepared for the career he achieved. He arrived in Quincy in 1837. With H. O. Sullivan and Nehemiah Bushnell, he founded the Quincy Whig newspaper, whose first issue "hit the streets" 5 May 1838.

Positions came his way: committeeman establishing the first library association here, city attorney and defeated as Clerk for the Illinois Assembly, despite Lincoln's vote in his favor--all in 1837. The following year--attorney for the Board of Trustees; invited to the Whig Springfield Barbecue in Springfield; gave a practical demonstration of the telegraph; admitted to the roll of attorneys of the Supreme Court of Illinois; joined Robert R. Williams, the short-lived brother of Archibald Williams, another of Lincoln's friends from Quincy; attendant at Mrs. Browning's Springfield "Court"--all in 1838.

We could go on and on, his work in John Todd Stuart's successful campaign, his work with the Whig Party, his successful effort in obtaining George Pickett's appointment to West Point.

Yet, it is his friendship with Lincoln that absorbs us today. Browning often listened to Lincoln reciting poetry; Johnston was the only man that I am aware of, whom Lincoln trusted with his verses for publication. During the years 1846-1847, Lincoln wrote Johnston four letters.

"In the fall of 1844," Lincoln wrote, "I went into the neighborhood in which I was raised, where my mother and sister were buried....seeing it, its objects and inhabitants aroused feelings in me were certainly poetry.....whether my expression of those feelings is poetry is quite another question."

May 5, 1847, just a little more than a year after he had sent the Traylor story to Johnston, Lincoln's poem: "My Childhood Home I See Again" also appeared on the pages of the Whig. This first Canto, almost morbid in its meditation on the death of those loved ones he had known as a child appeared under the title of "The Return".

Here are a few snatches.

"O memory! thou mid-way world  
Twixt Earth and Paradise,  
Where things decayed and loved ones lost  
In dreamy shadows rise.....

Where many were, how few remain  
Of old familiar things.  
But seeing these to mind again  
The lost and absent things.

I hear the lone survivors tell  
How nought from death could save,  
Till every sound appears a knell  
And every spot a grave.

I range the field with pensive tread,  
And pace the hollow rooms;  
And feel (companion of the dead)  
I'm living in the tombs."

The second Canto Lincoln prefaced thus:

"The subject of the present one is an insane man. His name is Matthew Gentry.. Three years older than I. He was a bright lad and the son of the rich man of our very poor neighborhood. At the age of 19, he unaccountable became furiously mad, from which condition he gradually settled down into harmless insanity...I found him still lingering in this wretched condition...."

Again, here are some excerpts:

And here's an object more of dread  
Than ought the grave contains--  
A human form, with reason fled,  
While wretched life remains.

Poor Matthew! Once of genius bright--  
A fortune-favored child  
Now locked for aye in mental night  
A haggard man-mad wild.

And when at length, tho' dread and long  
Time soothed your fiercer woes--  
How plaintively your mournful song  
Upon the still night rose.

According to Edith Symington, a niece of Andrew Johnston (?), in a letter dated Winston-Salem, N. C., June 6, 1912:

"In 1869 Mr. Johnston gave for publication to the Evening News of Friday, July 9, 1869, of Richmond, Virginia, the second poem, "The Maniac"...."

Johnston left Quincy for Richmond, Virginia, in 1847 or 1848. As far as we know, he never saw Lincoln again. He visited Quincy and the Brownings from July 31 to August 5, 1854. Did he visit Lincoln in Springfield at this time? From July 18 to August 9th the columns of Lincoln, Day by Day are blank.

I know of only two more instance linking Johnston to Lincoln. One is a letter sent to Archibald Williams, dated Richmond December 19, 1860, a little more than a month after Lincoln's election and on the eve of South Carolina's secession:

".....the discontent (ments) of the South are so widely and seriously felt.... that new assurance must be given in the North or the South must dissolve the Union... If the endeavor to enforce the laws of the Union within the geographical limits of the southern states (is made) South Carolina.....will be supported by her States ....I have long awaited and long for some declaration of Lincoln that might tend to tranquilize and reassure the South....."

Allowing a day or two for the mails, Lincoln must have received Johnston's letter and last contact, just a day, possibly three days, before Lincoln's assassination. Johnston reminds Lincoln:

"As you in part know, I have spared no effort to avert the struggle.....(I want to express) gratitude at the moderation and humanity, nay, I will add kindness, with which the authorities of the United States have acted since the occupation of this city (Richmond)--it has done much to soften the bitterness of feeling and to reconcile the people to their fate. If continued, it will be far more efficacious toward perserving the public tranquility than any measure of severity."

Lincoln well understood this leniency. When General Weitzel, commander of the occupied forces at Richmond, asked Lincoln what to do with the conquered people, Lincoln responded: "I'd let 'em up easy, let 'em up easy."

What a loss when that voice of leniency was silenced in a small room across the street from Ford's Theater.

So we close the lid of Pandora's box. It still holds another note--in fact, a funeral Dirge--Lincoln's Funeral March. That story of a seven years' search--a search which started in Kensington, Maryland, screen half of the States of our Union--for three years brought no clue, until in a worn scrapbook, an undated clipping, and eventually led to a granddaughter of Edward Cox Davis. Contact was made. Now, so much new material is forthcoming, that the old must be reappraised in light of the new. This will take time, more than I have now.

So for the present, we close Pandora's box. Not all of man's blessings have departed, Remember, hope never fled!



# A century ago in Quincy Quincy men helped Lincoln

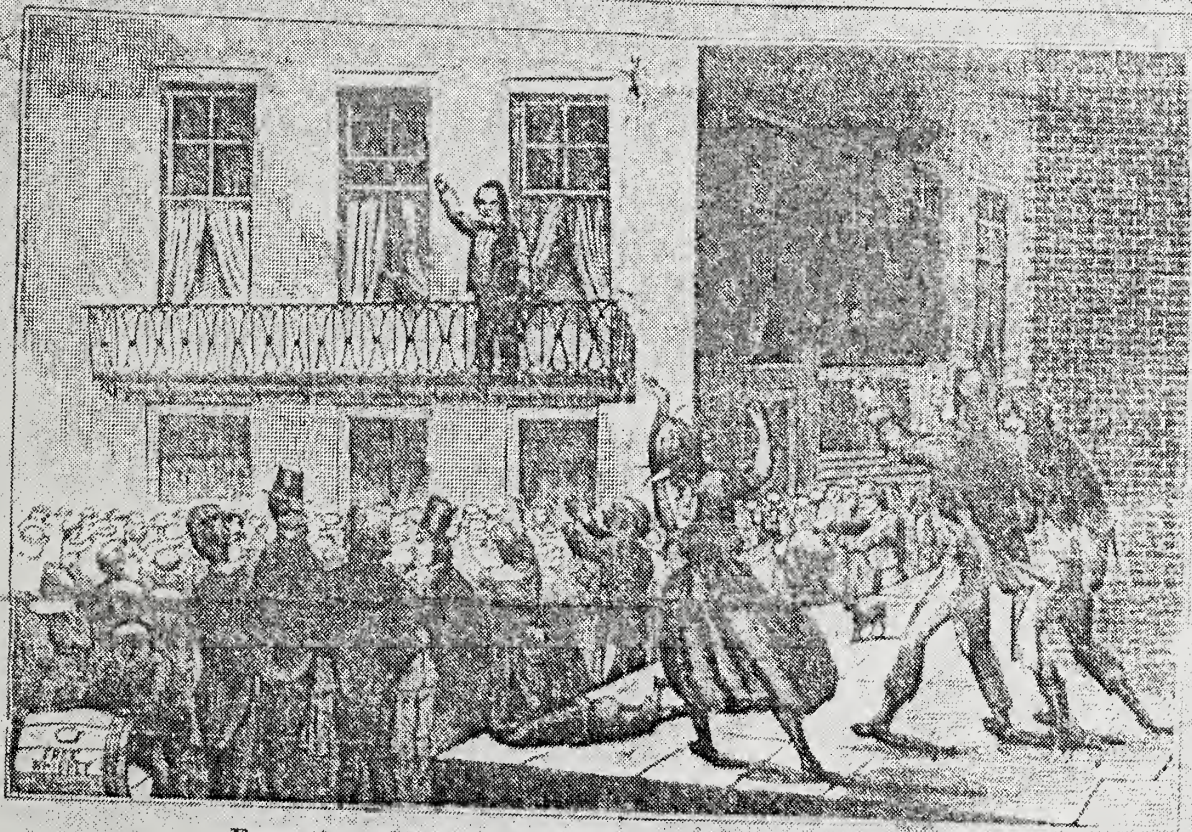
## The Rail Splitter.



VOL. I.

CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1860.

NO. 18.



Reception of Judge Douglas at Chicago, October 4th, 1860.

Part of front page of "The Rail Splitter," political newspaper published during 1860 campaign by Republican party. This copy, No. 18 of Vol. 1, dated Oct. 27, 1860, in Chicago, is from the collection of Carl Landrum. Originally this copy, one of nine copies in existence today, may have been property of Lincoln's friend, Archibald Williams of Quincy. Pic-

ture depicts Douglas delivering speech in Chicago on Oct. 4, 1860, with his listeners filled with free whisky; note barrel in lower left corner. Political meetings of that day could get very rough and noisy with bloodied noses often "end" result. Drawing at top of paper shows Lincoln splitting rails.



By CARL LANDRUM

IT HAS been said that Quincy had a great deal to do with the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860. It is entirely possible that the influence of a number of Quincy citizens was felt at the convention held that year in Chicago in the famous "Wigwam" near the Lake street bridge.

Quincy heard Lincoln speak the first time in the Kendall building on the southwest corner of Sixth and Maine, on the night of November 1, 1854, when he came here on behalf of Archibald Williams. And, of course, thousands saw and heard him in Washington square on the day of the great debate, October 13, 1858. In addition, many from this county went to hear Lincoln speak at Macomb and other places in Illinois. Many called him by name and considered him a friend; he was a friend of Quincy in more ways than one.

Didn't the great humorist David R. Locke, who wrote under the pen name of Petroleum V. Nashby, interview Lincoln in a room in the Quincy House the day of the debate? Locke wrote that Lincoln was seated on a chair with his feet on another chair, his boots off to relieve his very large feet from the pain caused by continuous standing. Lincoln said "he liked to give his feet a chance to breathe."

And wasn't Lincoln's name mentioned for the first time for the greatest office in the land right here in Quincy in Abraham Jonas's office at Fifth and Hampshire? This was on December 26, 1858, when Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, here on a speaking tour, met with the leading Republicans of the town, John Wood, Orville H. Browning, Abraham Jonas, Archibald Williams, and Henry Asbury. It was Asbury who made the suggestion that Lincoln might be a good choice.

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The state convention was held in Decatur on May 9, 1860. A large group went from Adams county, including those already mentioned and John Tillson, Jacob Dick, F. W. Jansen, Jackson Grimshaw, B. M. Prentiss, and K. K. Jones. Jones, farm editor of the Quincy

Whig, reported that there were 1,500 present. Delegate Richard J. Oglesby brought in a banner stretched between two rails reading, "Abe Lincoln, the rail candidate of the people for 1860. Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made by Abe Lincoln and John Hanks, on a ten acre lot south of Macon. The father of

Abe Lincoln, the first squatter in Macon City."

Oglesby, who succeeded Yates as governor of Illinois, had a quantity of these rails, and it seemed that every town in the state wanted one. K. K. Jones ordered one and sent him two dollars for "Uncle John Hanks." The rail was displayed in the Whig newspaper office in Quincy and editor John W. Ray wrote a story telling how Hanks helped Lincoln clear and prepare a ten-acre field in 1830, ten miles west of Decatur, where he and Lincoln split and made into a fence, three thousand rails. The Whig said that the rail was emblematical of the candidate of the Republican party. The Chicago Times said that Lincoln should not be called "Old Abe" and the fact that he split rails should not be mentioned so often.

The convention that opened in Chicago on May 16, 1860 was the second Republican convention held; five slave states were represented there.

The Illinois delegates to the national convention stayed at the very popular Tremont House in Chicago, and among them were the men from Quincy. The group included John Wood, Henry V. Sullivan, John Wood, Jr., Abraham Jonas, Thomas Pope, James C. Bernard, John K. VanDoorn, Jackson Grimshaw, Stephen Delano, Edward C. Winter, editor of the Quincy Tribune, and Orville H. Browning. Men who stood high in political circles in Illinois, and for that matter, the nation.

• • •

Browning had been elected a delegate - at - large to the convention from Illinois, along with Norman Judd, Gustave Koerner, and David Davis. Nathaniel G. Wilcox, Browning's alternate, had opposed the selection of Browning as a delegate because of Browning's preference for Edward Bates. In fact Wilcox told Browning that although they were friends he would oppose his appointment. However, Lincoln saw this move as being unwise and told Wilcox not to oppose Browning.

Actually Browning's diary is disappointing in its description of the convention and his work there. The diary between the years of 1854 and 1860 deal with Lincoln so slightly as to suggest that the senator chose to ignore his political rival. In 1859 there was some suggestion that Browning had not been too forward for Lincoln in the 1858 campaign; certainly he was not at home when Lincoln appeared in Quincy for the debate and remained overnight at the Browning home at Seventh and Hampshire. Browning was appearing in court in Carthage at the time, but one

wonders if it was by choice or accident.

Browning had reached national prominence as early as 1855 and could not have been left out as a Republican convention delegate. Browning wrote that the "cars" were full going to Chicago and that he stopped at the Briggs House and not with the others at the Tremont.

Browning had a busy day spent in arranging the program of the proceedings. He was asked to go with Davis and Tom Marshall to meet and confer with the Maine delegation and at their request spoke on the problems of the convention. They also visited the delegates from New Hampshire.

That night they received a message from the Massachusetts delegation and called on this group in their rooms, addressing them on the aspect of political affairs in Illinois.

Although Browning was for Bates, his influence must have been a great help toward Lincoln's nomination. Gustave Koerner later wrote of the way the Illinois men worked to obtain support for Lincoln from the other delegations, saying that Lincoln was far more likely to win the support of the German Republicans than Bates.

Koerner said Browning spoke from the Whig standpoint, showing that Lincoln ought to satisfy the Whigs of Indiana and Pennsylvania. Koerner also wrote that Browning wound up his speech with a most beautiful and eloquent eulogy on Lincoln, which electrified the meeting. After this the delegates held a secret session and it was later learned that Indiana would go for Lincoln at the start and that Pennsylvania would support him as a second choice.

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K. K. Jones reported to the Quincy Whig and Republican that the names mentioned in advance were William H. Seward, Lincoln, Cameron, Bates, Chase and Blair. The convention hall was packed and many stood outside the hall. The historic event was called to order by E. D. Morgan, governor of the state of New York, and chairman of the national committee. The gavel used was made from oak taken from Commodore Perry's flagship.

The convention voted not to accept the invitation of the Chicago Board of Trade for an excursion on the lake, and got down to business at once. Five hundred reporters wrote that Patrick Gilmore's famous band from Boston played the national anthem, and David Wilmot was named temporary chairman of the meetings, which lasted three days. Browning thought Wilmot "dull, chuckle-headed, a booby-looking man, and a very poor presiding officer." However, he agreed with the choice of the convention of George Ashmun as permanent chairman.

Ashmun, from Springfield, Massachusetts, and a member of congress from 1845 to 1851, ironically was the last man to be in contact with Lincoln that fatal night in April, 1865. On the way to the theater the president wrote a note for Ashmun to be permitted to see him that next morning along with Orville Browning and James

Singleton of Quincy.

Browning had been asked by the Illinois delegates to serve as vice president of their delegation but declined in favor of Judge Davis. Browning said that his choice for the office of chief magistrate was Edward Bates of Missouri, but under instructions the entire Illinois delegation would vote for Mr. Lincoln. He said that many reasons influenced him to support Bates, the main one being his ability to strengthen the party in the South and remove any apprehension there of hostile purposes on the part of the Republicans toward the institutions of the South. Bates did receive 48 votes on the first ballot.

The Democrats in Chicago brought great pressure to bear at the convention for the nomination of William Seward. It was felt that if Lincoln was nominated they were "lost." After Lincoln was nominated Seward sent a telegram saying that he would be happy to

stump New York state for Lincoln. K. K. Jones reported that many people were disappointed that Seward was not nominated. However many candidates for governor and other offices felt much more secure in their own races with the nomination of Lincoln.

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Lincoln was nominated by his friend Norman Judd and seconded by Smith of Indiana; Judd was not a friend of Browning and Browning feared his influence in the party. Carl Schurz, who came to Quincy with Lincoln for the historic 1858 debate, and was considered a friend of the man from Springfield, made the seconding speech for Seward. However, on the third ballot Ohio changed its vote, others climbed on the band wagon, and New York moved to make the ballot unanimous; now, Schurz seconded this motion for Lincoln.

After the roll call the bands outside the hall started playing, and the cannon began to boom, telling the people the results. The total vote cast was 466, with 354 for Lincoln. Browning spoke to the convention in behalf of the Illinois delegation expressing their gratitude for Lincoln's nomination, devoting a large share of his speech to placate the Sewardites. He appealed for harmony in the party.

After the convention the party leaders asked Browning to appeal to Bates to make a speaking tour in behalf of Lincoln and the party. Browning made the trip to St. Louis but Bates was not willing to comply, saying he did not belong to the Republican party, didn't approve of the party platform with regard to slavery in the territories, and he thought a speaking tour would be beneath his dignity. However, he did agree to write a note for publication, offering approval of the Lincoln - Hamlin ticket.

• • •

The Quincy delegation returned from the convention pleased with the results and with their nominee. On the Saturday night following the convention the Republicans held a meeting on caucus in Con-

cert hall in the Flachs-Mersmann building on the southeast corner of Fifth and Maine to ratify the convention and its platform. Henry Asbury, who had suggested Lincoln back in 1858, offered the motion to approve their candidate and Abraham Jonas and Jackson Grimshaw, both friends of Lincoln, spoke on the resolution. Robert S. Benneson, chairman of the meeting, declared the motion carried.

Austin Brooks, editor of the rival Quincy Herald, who favored Stephen A. Douglas, was sharply critical of the so-called "black Republicans" in Chicago even printing a story that some of the delegates were arrested in a house of ill fame. The Herald claimed that the telegraphic dispatches from Chicago did not carry anything on the second day of the convention, but finally printed the totals of the three ballots. There seemed to be a slight case of "sour grapes." Granted it was only the beginning, but Adams county men worked for Lincoln all the way, and during the time he was in office, it was not unusual for a man from this area to be found chatting with the busiest man in the land, who always found time for his friends.

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# Lincoln Lore

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Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
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## JAMES SPEED, A PERSONALITY INDEED

James Speed, Lincoln's second Attorney General and the brother of his good friend Joshua, is one of the more shadowy figures in Lincoln's official family. Historians often write his appointment to the cabinet off as cronyism, his tenure in office was brief, and no biographer has ever taken up Speed's cause. His grandson, also named James Speed, did publish a volume entitled *James Speed: A Personality* (Louisville: Press of John P. Morton, 1914), which stitched together excerpts from his grandfather's correspondence, but it is adequate only to whet the appetite. Speed was an independent and intelligent man, more astute politically and closer to Lincoln's Republican principles than his brother Joshua. Joshua was a gentleman farmer and a real estate broker; James was a lawyer and a politician, though for most of his life a politician without a constituency.

As early as 1859, when James Speed, like most Southerners, had been driven into the Democratic party for want of any other place to go, he was independent and shrewd enough to realize that Abraham Lincoln posed no real threat to Southern constitutional rights. Lincoln had engaged in a wrangle with Joshua over Republican policies and "Bleeding Kansas" in 1855, but James could write Lincoln four years later and say, "that tho a democrat, I would not have sorrowed at your election to the U.S. Senate — I feel that our rights and institutions would not have been in jeopardy in your hands." By contrast, Joshua, even when he congratulated Lincoln on his nomination for the Presidency in 1860, reminded him that he was "a warm personal friend" but "a political opponent."

James Speed had served one term in the Kentucky Legislature over a decade before the Civil War, but he became so identified with opposition to slavery that he never had a Kentucky constituency again until the war. When he wrote Lincoln in 1859, it was to send him a pamphlet by Louisville's Judge S.S. Nicholas which embodied a bizarre proposal to eliminate the role of political parties in selecting the President. The plan would have

given each state one Presidential elector per million of population. These electors, once chosen, would be divided into six classes and each class would nominate a person. Of these six, two names would be drawn by lot, and the electors would choose which of the two would be President. The other would be Vice-President.

When war broke out, James and Joshua became leaders of pro-Union sentiment and activity in Kentucky. James gained election to the Kentucky Senate. Though he mildly protested General John C. Frémont's emancipation proclamation in Missouri in 1861, James Speed soon introduced a measure in the Kentucky Legislature for confiscation of the estates of rebels. The bill was doomed in part because James introduced

it. "I am regarded as ultra," he told Lincoln, "almost an abolitionist, and of course any thing from me on the subject of slavery is regarded with suspicion." When his bill did not provide for the state to sell confiscated slaves with the rest of confiscated property, legislators asked why. The "state never should sell a human being by my vote," Speed explained. This remark produced "much excitement." "This I have told you," Speed wrote Lincoln, "that you may form some idea of how sensitive our people are upon this subject." Then, characteristically, Speed drew back, telling Lincoln, "You must not infer from what I have said that the pro-slavery feeling in this state is all controlling." There was "a growing hatred of the southern traitors in Kentucky," and this hatred "must soon embrace the institutions" of the Southern traitors.

Joshua Speed was so agitated by Frémont's proclamation that he was "unable to eat or sleep." Though he "and a few others" would be left alone to fight for the Union, the proclamation would essentially "crush out every vestige of a union party in the state." He reminded Lincoln that all "who live in Slave states," whether Unionist or not in sentiment, "have great fear of insurrection." To allow "negroes to be emancipated & remain among us" would have the same ef-



From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. James Speed.



fect, he warned, as attacking the freedom of worship or the right to teach children to read in the North. James Speed's protest against the proclamation was much less hysterical and his feelings about slavery more philosophical than Joshua's. By December of 1861, when he wrote Lincoln about his confiscation bill in the Kentucky Senate, James knew that the war was the beginning of the end of slavery. The "great laws of economy" would dictate its abolition by the masters themselves. "The emancipation feeling in Ky," he told Lincoln, "rises & falls with the rise & fall in the price of slaves." The war would "affect, if not destroy their value."

Though not a popular or especially successful politician, James Speed had a good deal of political savvy. Commenting on Simon Cameron's controversial proposal to arm the slaves as soldiers for the Union, Speed noted that Cameron "exhibited the common weakness of talking in advance of action." "Many who condemn what he said," Speed told Lincoln, "would approve the conduct he invites when the case [?] arises for it."

When Lincoln proposed bold antislavery action of his own, Speed was hesitant to recognize the wisdom of his own political knowledge. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation would be a bold stroke, and it would come without elaborate previous discussion. Lincoln apparently read his proposed proclamation to James in July of 1862, at about the same time that his cabinet (and no one else) learned of it. Speed "pondered over the proclamation," but he decided "that it will do no good; most probably much harm." Still trusting the slow workings of economic laws, the Kentuckian argued that the "negro can not be emancipated by proclamation." If the Negro were no party to his own liberation, "he would sink into slavery again" as soon as the external liberating force were removed. In a statement strangely at odds with Joshua's fear of servile insurrection, James said, "If he has not the spirit to strike for freedom, he has not the pride of character to make him keep it when given to him." A sweeping proclamation "would but delude the poor negro, and shock most violently the prejudices of many in the north & nearly all in the south."

Once again, however, James Speed showed his detached view of Southern racial mores. He admitted to Lincoln that "the loyal men of Ky will not be moved by any thing that may be done with the negro." Loyalty would thus survive such a proclamation. He concluded with a remark which, though not encouraging Lincoln to issue the proclamation, seemed almost an invitation to servile insurrection: "If the negro is to be free he must strike for it himself." Once Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Speed quickly adjusted to it and noted the adjustment of other Kentuckians. "The negro-phobia is nothing like as bad as it was at first," he told Joshua on January 19, 1863. Time was "working wonders."

James Speed's appointment to Lincoln's cabinet late in 1864 was probably more than cronyism on Lincoln's part. Lincoln had discussed slavery with the Kentuckian on several occasions. He knew James Speed's flexibility, philosophical detachment, and independence of judgment. He probably even recognized evidence of greater statesmanship in James than in his old friend Joshua. After Lincoln's death, James quickly became identified with radical Republicanism, and most historians have shown surprise at this turn in the political feelings of a Kentuckian. Lincoln might not have been surprised himself. He knew of James Speed's independence and of his unemotional view of the South's peculiar institution. Even before Lincoln's assassination, James Speed knew very well what would be the sentiments that would govern reconstruction of the South. He told his mother on March 28, 1865, that "many difficulties remain to be settled, and unless the people of the South act wisely and act promptly, great suffering is still in store for them. If they will frankly and fully acknowledge the freedom of the black man and give to him the chance for improvement and elevation, their burden will be greatly lessened." When Abraham Lincoln selected him for his cabinet, he must have known that James Speed was a personality indeed.

## LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHED *DEBATES*: ABRAHAM JONAS COPY

This, the fifth article in a series on presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858*, in

*Illinois*, focuses on one of the best-known copies, the one given to Abraham Jonas. The Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield has owned the book, their only presentation copy of the *Debates*, for many years. Frederick Wells of Minneapolis, the grandson of Jonas, gave the book to that library.

That Lincoln gave Abraham Jonas a copy of his book is a great symbol of the wide range of Lincoln's associations. Jonas was an English Jew. After thirteen years' residence in Kentucky, he moved to Quincy, Illinois, in 1838; there he practiced law and continued his activities as a Mason and a Whig. Doubtless party activities and a mutual friendship with Orville Hickman Browning brought Lincoln and Jonas together at an earlier date, but the first documentary proof of their association is Jonas's letter to Lincoln inviting him to speak in Quincy. Stephen Douglas was coming to help the local candidate in what Jonas figured would be "the warmest contest for Congress that we have ever had in the district." The "Douglasites," Jonas said, "would as soon see old Nick here as yourself." Jonas's first loyalties were to Browning and another local Whig, but he supported Lincoln for the Senate in 1855. When Jonas again requested of Lincoln "one of your *sledge hammer speeches*" in 1858, Lincoln obliged, speaking in Augusta, Illinois, just two days before the famous Freeport debate with Douglas.

Jonas's considerable political abilities (he served as a state representative in both Kentucky and Illinois) were a function of his own speaking abilities. He does not appear to be a great party tactician in his correspondence with Lincoln. In fact, in 1860 he nearly lured Lincoln, unwittingly, into a political trap. On July 20, 1860, he told Lincoln that a Quincy Democratic leader was obtaining affidavits from Irishmen "that they saw you in Quincy come out of a Know Nothing Lodge." Lincoln replied, explaining that he had never been in such a lodge. Lincoln suggested relying on affidavits from local men of prominence to disprove the charge and added "a word of caution": "Our adversaries think they can gain a point, if they could force me to openly deny this charge, by which some degree of offence would be given to the Americans [i.e., Know Nothings]. For this reason, it must not publicly appear that I am paying any attention to the charge."

An interesting aspect of the same exchange of letters is the handling of the delicate question of ethnic prejudice in them. Jonas's letter to Lincoln stated, "I do not know if there is truth in the matter, neither do I care, but thought it best you should know about it." An Englishman by birth and a Jew, Jonas made it clear that his support of Lincoln did not hinge on knowledge that the Railsplitter had never participated in the nativist Know-Nothing movement. Lincoln's reply made it equally clear that he had no qualms about associating with former nativists: "I suppose as good, or even better, men than I may have been in American, or Know-Nothing lodges; but in point of fact, I never was in one, at Quincy, or elsewhere."

When Lincoln was President-elect, Jonas wrote him one of those alarming letters about the possibility of assassination. Jonas had "a very large family connection in the South," including six children in New Orleans. From one of his Southern relations, he had learned of a "perfect organization" of "desperate characters" to prevent Lincoln's inauguration, even "by using violence on the person of Lincoln." He recommended that free-state governors and Lincoln's friends take precautions because "no protection can be expected from the damned old traitor at the head of the Government [James Buchanan] or his subordinates." If Lincoln replied to this letter, it has not been found.

Jonas's Southern connections made his family one of those divided by the Civil War. Four of his sons fought for the Confederacy. When he was on his deathbed in 1864, Browning influenced Lincoln to allow one of Jonas's sons, then a prisoner in Union hands, to be released temporarily to pay a last visit to his father. Lincoln had been solicitous of Jonas's desires all along, appointing him — again because of a suggestion from Browning — postmaster in Quincy. When Jonas died, Lincoln made his widow postmistress there.

The Abraham Jonas copy of the *Debates* is an important relic of this interesting friendship. Lincoln students owe Jonas a debt for another reason. When Lincoln replied to Jonas's letter requesting a copy of the book, he stated that the publisher had not yet printed them but that Jonas would receive one of the one hundred copies the publisher promised Lincoln personally. This letter is our way of knowing that Lincoln had a hundred copies to give away.

*Editor's Note:* The Jonas letters to Lincoln are in the



Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress. I have quoted from the following: Jonas to Lincoln, September 16, 1854; July 30, 1858; July 20, 1860; and December 30, 1860.

Further information on Jonas is available in Bertram W. Korn, *American Jewry and the Civil War* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1951).

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS: "STRONG'S DIME CARICATURES"

FIGURES 2-5 (below). The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum recently purchased a series of four poster cartoons published by Thomas W. Strong of New York in 1861. Strong was a prolific producer of prints, noted especially for being the first employer of Louis Maurer, the genius behind the early political cartoons of Currier &

Ives. Harry T. Peters in *America on Stone* noted a strain of originality in the work of Strong's firm, and the series of four "Dime Caricatures" pictured here certainly reveal a taste for good workmanship and for variety in political cartooning. The caricatures must have been printed about March, 1861. All deal with the secession crisis. The Lincoln cartoon has been pictured in Rufus Rockwell Wilson's *Lincoln in Caricature*, but Wilson did not note that the cartoon was part of a series or publish the others in the series.

STRONG'S DIME CARICATURES.—No. 1.



DOMESTIC TROUBLES.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

STRONG'S DIME CARICATURES.—No. 2.



LITTLE BO-PEEP AND HER FOOLISH SHEEP.

"Little Bo-peep, she lost her sheep,  
And didn't know where to find 'em;  
Let 'em alone, and they'll all come home,  
With their tails hanging down behind 'em."

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum





From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum



From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum





# Lincoln Lore

August, 1979

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
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Number 1698

## JACK TAR AND ABE LINCOLN: HOW THE SAILORS VOTED IN '64

Voting in the field was a hot issue in Lincoln's day, and it has troubled historians ever since. As early as 1861, President Lincoln heard with favor General Benjamin F. Butler's proposal to recruit Massachusetts troops personally. What made the proposal attractive was the hope that this Democratic general could attract Democratic citizens who would otherwise stay home and vote against the Republicans. In 1862 David Davis worried that Republican Leonard Swett would lose the race in Lincoln's old congressional district in Illinois because loyal voters were in the ranks and away from home, leaving only the disloyal to vote the Republicans out. By 1864 most states had solved the problem by allowing soldiers to vote in the field. This did not solve the historian and political analyst's problem, however. Questions about the fairness of that voting remain. Was the Army overwhelmingly exposed to the blandishments of pro-administration newspapers and propaganda? Did the politics of the commanding officers prevent a free and fair election in their units?

These questions remain largely unanswered, and, in the arguments over them, one body of voters has been overlooked altogether: the men who voted, not in the field, but on the decks of the ships of the United States Navy. At first blush, it seems that these might safely be lumped with the soldiers; whatever historical and political factors explain the one should explain the other. A closer look at the correspondence of the harried politicians who struggled for Lincoln's reelection in 1864 shows that soldiers and sailors were, at least as voters, very different groups of men.

Although historians have largely forgotten the sailors' votes, politicians at the time did not. Thurlow Weed, "The Dictator" of New York Republican politics, became "so anxious about the Navy Vote" that on October 10, 1864, he wrote President Lincoln about the problem. And the sailors' votes did pose a special problem: how could an agent distribute ballots to men at sea without a seagoing vessel by which to reach them? They could not, and such vessels were not easy to come by for civilian purposes in wartime. In New



FIGURE 1. These men were potential voters — but for whom?

*From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum*





From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. The ship that carried Weed's agent to the blockading squadron, the *Circassian*, is on the reader's right.

York City, Simeon Draper, Collector of the Port of New York and head of the enormous patronage-dispensing New York Custom House, wrote George Harrington, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, "for a steamer (Revenue cutter) to go to the Blockading Squadron." Harrington apparently failed to understand the important political purpose of the mission and failed at first to lend the cutter. Weed, however, telegraphed Harrington and was confident of a "a favorable answer."

Like all good political managers, "The Dictator" was inexhaustible in his efforts to seek out potential voters. While he worked on getting a revenue cutter to visit the blockading squadron, he also fretted about "the vote of the Sailors on the Mississippi" River. Weed wrote Frederick Seward, Secretary of State William H. Seward's son and his Assistant Secretary of State, "asking him to obtain a Government Steamer . . . to go from Cairo [Illinois] down the River to the different Gun Boats." If he succeeded in obtaining the necessary vessels, Weed promised President Lincoln, "we shall save many thousand Votes."

Weed's letter got immediate results. On October 11, 1864, Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward called on crusty Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy. Welles accommodated the President's request, but, as his diary entry for that day shows, the Navy Secretary distrusted anything which bore the stamp of approval of William H. Seward and his crafty manager Thurlow Weed:

The President and Seward called on me . . . relative to New York voters in the Navy. Wanted one of our boats to be placed at the disposal of the New York commission to gather votes in the Mississippi Squadron. A Mr. Jones was referred to, who subsequently came to me with a line from the President, and wanted also to send to the blockading squadrons. Gave permission to go by the *Circassian*, and directed commanders to extend facilities to all voters.

Much is said and done in regard to the soldier's vote, and many of the States not only have passed laws but altered

their constitutions to permit it. The subject is one that has not struck me favorably. I have not perhaps given the subject the consideration that I ought — certainly not enough to advocate it, and yet it seems ungracious to oppose it. Were I to vote on this question at all, I should, with my present impressions, vote against it.

The administration and the New York Republicans acted quickly, but not quickly enough. On October 21, one J. Springsteed wrote Weed from Cairo that he had arrived on Tuesday, but "There was no Boat to be had without waiting until they could repair [the] dispatch Gun Boat *Volunteer* which would take till Friday or Saturday." Springsteed was "waiting patiently," but he feared "failure for the reason that [Democratic incumbent] Gov. Seymours agents were here some ten days ago Collecting the Votes here and then went on a Gun Boat for New Orleans Stopping all Boats they will meet." Weed's agent did what he could while marooned at Cairo. There and seven miles away at Mound City were six boats. On the *Great Western*, he found "about 30 from our State of which they [the Democrats] got all but Seven which I got." On the other five vessels, he reported gloomily, "we did not get a vote." The only redeeming feature was that few of the river sailors were from New York. Springsteed tried the twelve marines stationed at Cairo and got only one vote to the opponents' eleven.

Springsteed reported that the Democratic agents procured "a great many votes by Saying it is there only Chance." Apparently the agents told the sailors that no Republican agents were coming. He also found "a great dissatisfaction among the men that they are not paid." He had very little hope for favorable results from the rest of the vessels in the squadron of fifty boats.

News from the blockading squadron was little better. The excitable Weed scrawled a letter to President Lincoln, saying that the "Adversary is making the Canvass sanguinary." The political battle seemed desperate, and news from a Major Richardson, dispatched to get the votes from the blockading squadron, was bad. The major had written Weed from



Beaufort, North Carolina, to tell him he found "most of the Sailors against us." The explanation was simple: "They are largely Irish."

The dependence of the United States Navy on foreign-born seamen had long troubled naval reformers and Secretaries of the Navy. As early as 1825, Samuel Southard, Secretary of the Navy under President John Quincy Adams, had recommended excluding even naturalized immigrants from the service. In 1837 Congress sought a solution by passing a bill to recruit naval apprentices, eighteen years of age, who, they hoped, would be native Americans. Recruited mostly from the large cities on the coast which had a seafaring tradition, the apprentices themselves were frequently of foreign birth or parentage. In 1864 the ethnic composition of the United States Navy was a political problem for the Republican administration. Irish-Americans were consistently Democratic voters.

Thurlow Weed reported another problem to the President: "Another Agent writes to the State Committee that Admiral Lee is against us." Samuel Phillips Lee was an acting rear admiral, well connected in the Lincoln administration. He was Postmaster General Montgomery Blair's brother-in-law. He had fought at New Orleans in 1862, which gained him promotion to command the North Atlantic blockading squadron off Virginia and North Carolina. There he was most successful in capturing blockade-runners, but Gideon Welles thought his "caution runs into timidity." Lee was no man to command a fleet to attack Wilmington, North Carolina; he was "destitute of heroic daring." Therefore, Welles transferred Lee to the Mississippi River. The Blair family's origins were Democratic, and this Virginia-born brother-in-law was evidently a Democrat and not at all helpful to the Republican agents who came to distribute ballots to the river gunboats.

Just before the election, Weed conferred with Major Richardson, who had returned from his expedition "to collect Sailors votes" from the blockading squadron. Though "a most thorough man," Major Richardson was not successful.

"The Sailors are nearly all against us," Weed told the President. "The Officers generally were right," although "the Commander of one of the finest Vessels was hostile and abusive." The sailors opposed the administration, Weed reported, "for a simple but potent reason — *their Grog has been stop [ped]!*"

On September 1, 1862, the United States Navy stopped issuing the "spirit ration," long a target of temperance reformers and naval reformers. War and a moralistic Republican administration seem finally to have tipped the scale in the reformers' favor. Hard-drinking and tradition-bound seamen apparently detested the move. At the time of the American Revolution, sailors went to the revolutionary cause in overwhelming numbers because of the practice of British custom commissioners who inspected their personal sea chests for goods on which a duty was owed. Traditionally, these trunks had been exempt from such inspections; in fact sailors regarded their personal sea chests as sacred. They were also notorious for liking their grog, and the end of the spirit ration probably earned the administration the common sailors' undying hatred. Disrupting traditions of the sea was dangerous business.

Weed reported that Major Richardson "secured only about 500 Votes," a disappointing figure for the state of New York, which contained the nation's most important port and probably supplied an enormous percentage of the Union's sailors. The only silver lining to be found in this gloomy political cloud was that "the Adversary did not move in that direction." Though Governor Seymour was apparently diligent about the river fleet, the Democrats largely forgot the blockading squadron. The problem was probably not lack of cooperation with the Democrats by the Navy Department. Gideon Welles prided himself on keeping the Navy above partisanship.

President Lincoln, of course, was most grateful for the large role the Navy played in bringing Union victory in the Civil War. When he was invited to attend the National Sailors' Fair to be held in Boston right after the election, Lincoln wrote a



FIGURE 3. A Union river gunboat fleet meanders up a Southern waterway.

From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum





From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

**FIGURE 4.** Thurlow Weed's behavior during the Civil War seemed thoroughly out of character. In the past he had been largely indifferent to policy, but he became so upset at Lincoln's policies that he nearly broke with the administration.

gracious note in lieu of attending. He wrote the note, ironically, on election day:

Allow me to wish you a great success. With the old fame of the Navy, made brighter in the present war, you can not fail. I name none, lest I wrong others by omission. To all, from Rear Admiral, to honest Jack I tender the Nation's admiration and gratitude [.]

Lincoln was sincerely grateful for the sailors' services in the war, but politically he could have done without them. Jack Tar was a Democrat.

## LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHED DEBATES: THE ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS COPY

This is the seventh article in a series on the signed presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois*. The copy bearing the inscription, "To Hon: Archibald Williams, with respects of A. Lincoln," was the property of Kenneth K. Bechtel of San Francisco when Harry E. Pratt wrote "Lincoln Autographed Debates" for *Manuscripts* in 1954. It is now the property of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. The library was unable to describe the book's history since Mr. Bechtel's ownership.

Archibald Williams was born in Kentucky in 1801. He came to Quincy, Illinois, in 1829. There he established a successful law practice. Quincy lay in what was called the Military Tract, the land between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers most of which had been granted as bounties to soldiers in the War of 1812. Most of the veterans were forced to sell their claims to Eastern land speculators. Some lost them in tax sales, not realizing their liability to pay taxes on the claims. Questions of priority of ownership and clarity of title racked the Military Tract, and it became a paradise for lawyers (who could get good fees from the well-heeled speculators and their agents). Williams was soon noted for his abilities as a lawyer in land disputes.

Williams became acquainted with Lincoln when both men served in the Illinois Legislature at Vandalia in the 1830s. The Quincy Whig served in the Illinois Senate from 1832-1836 and in the Illinois House from 1836-1840. Usher F. Linder remembered Lincoln and Williams sitting near each other in the southeast corner of the old State House in Vandalia; they were "great friends," he said. Legal work also brought the two men together. Lincoln was associated with Williams in several cases and apparently took some of the Quincy lawyer's cases on appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield.

Both former Kentuckians were Henry Clay Whigs. In 1848, when Lincoln dropped Clay for Zachary Taylor and some hope of winning, Williams was apparently slow to switch his loyalties. Lincoln told him flatly, "Mr. Clay's chance for an election, is just no chance at all." Both Williams and Lincoln were friends of Orville Hickman Browning, another Quincy lawyer and active Whig politician. "I know our good friend Browning," Lincoln told Williams, "is a great admirer of Mr. Clay, and I therefore fear, he is favoring his nomination." Lincoln instructed Williams to ask Browning "to discard feeling, and try if he can possibly, as a matter of judgment, count the votes necessary to elect him." Williams evidently jumped on the Taylor bandwagon, for, after the election, Lincoln wrote a letter recommending his appointment as U.S. District Attorney (Lincoln did not like the idea of rewarding holdouts for Clay's nomination with appointive offices). Williams gained the appointment and held office until the Democrats took over the Presidency in 1853. In 1852 he joined with Lincoln in organizing a meeting to express sympathy for Hungarian revolutionary Louis Kossuth.

In 1854 Williams joined the many Illinois Whigs who denounced the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He ran for Congress, but, even with Lincoln's help (he came to Quincy to make a speech in Williams's behalf), he lost. Williams evidently had designs on the United States Senate seat to be filled by the state legislature in 1855. Lincoln wanted the seat too, but he explained to a legislator apparently pledged to Williams: "Of course I prefer myself to all others; yet it is neither in my heart nor my conscience to say I am any better man than Mr. Williams." Despite their competing ambitions, Lincoln and Williams were evidently in substantial agreement on political principles in this tumultuous period of confusing politics. Lincoln told one supporter in 1855 that a set of resolutions Williams had drawn up fairly accurately described the ground on which he would be willing to "fuse" with other anti-Nebraska groups. Three years later Williams was once again mentioned as a competitor for the Senate seat Lincoln sought in his historic campaign against Stephen A. Douglas.

Ambition for office did not drive the two men apart. The copy of the *Debates* which Lincoln gave Williams is some evidence of this (Lincoln also gave Williams's law partner Jackson Grimshaw a signed copy). Even more important was President Lincoln's appointment of Williams as U.S. District Judge in Kansas.

Usher Linder remembered Williams as a man "over six feet high, and as angular and ungainly in his form as Mr. Lincoln himself; and for homeliness of face and feature, surpassed Mr. Lincoln." Linder also recalled that Lincoln thought highly of Williams as "the strongest-minded and clearest headed man he ever saw." Linder, who knew both men in the legislature, was a Universalist in religion and thought everyone would go to heaven. If he was correct in his "views of the mercies of God," Linder said long after his old friend Archie Williams was dead, "he is now walking the golden streets with Douglas and Lincoln."



NOTES CONCERNING LINCOLN for

*Quincy*  
Population (1930) *39,241*

1. MARKERS Commemorating

Location

*Boulder, Lincoln-Douglas Debate 1858. Washington Park*

2. STATUES OR MONUMENTS

Location

3. MUSEUM COLLECTIONS OF LINCOLN RELICS (Publicly or privately owned)

4. COLLECTIONS OF LINCOLN BOOKS (Publicly or privately owned)

*Good collection of Lincolniana in public library*

5. BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH LINCOLN OR HIS FAMILY

6. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH LINCOLN IN TOWN OR SURROUNDING COUNTRY

7. NAMES OF THOSE MOST INTERESTED IN THE STUDY OF LINCOLN

8. AUTHOR AND TITLE OF BOOKS OF LOCAL HISTORY

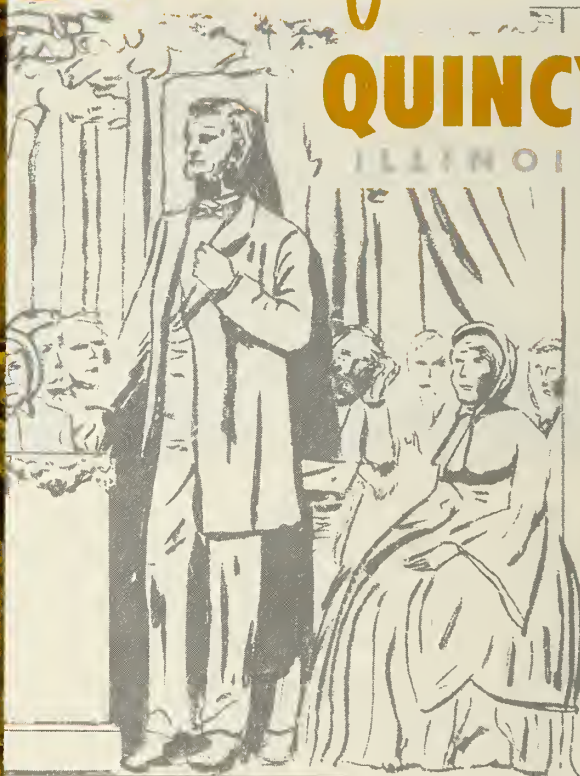
The above information through the courtesy of

*Margaret Ringler.....*  
*Librarian.....*

# Historical Sketch of...

## QUINCY

ILLINOIS



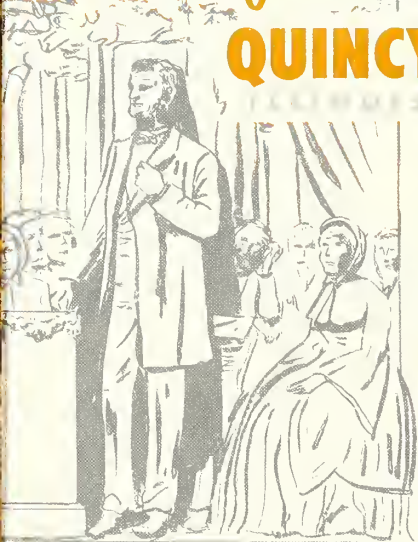
DOUGLAS DEBATE  
OCTOBER 13 1858





# Historical Sketch of...

## QUINCY



DOUGLAS DEBATE  
OCTOBER 13 1858



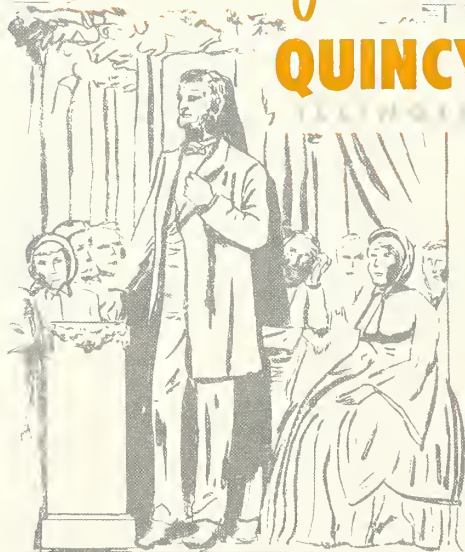


Washington Park in the center of the downtown business district, dates from the original platting of the city. On the west side is a statue of Jahn Waad, Quincy's first permanent white settler and the twelfth governor of Illinois; on the east side is a plaque commemorating the sixth of the debates between Lincoln and Douglas, an October 13, 1858. This plaque which stands on the site of the debate, was designed by Larada Taft.



Compiled by: Quincy Chamber of Commerce  
 Photos by: Roy E. White  
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 In cooperation with Region #3,  
 Division of Tourism, State of Illinois

# Sketch of... **QUINCY**



-DOUGLAS DEBATE  
 OCTOBER 13 1858



In the picturesque east bluff overlooking the Mississippi, where the river swings farthest to the west, stands the city of Quincy, on the site of an Indian trading post. Here in 1673, Marquette and Joliet, on their trip of exploration, stopped at the Sac and Fox village, and here traders come from St. Louis to barter for furs.

In 1821, John Wood, a native of New York, came to this vicinity to investigate the claim of a friend who had been granted a land bounty in the Military Tract, a large tract of land in Western Illinois set aside by act of Congress for bounties for soldiers from the War of 1812. So impressed was he with the natural resources of the locality that he returned in 1822 to become Quincy's first permanent white settler. During his first visit he met Willard Keyes, a Vermonter, who also returned to become a permanent settler. Other adventurers came from the East either to settle on their land grants or to engage in trade, and the little settlement grew and became known as Bluffs because of its location.

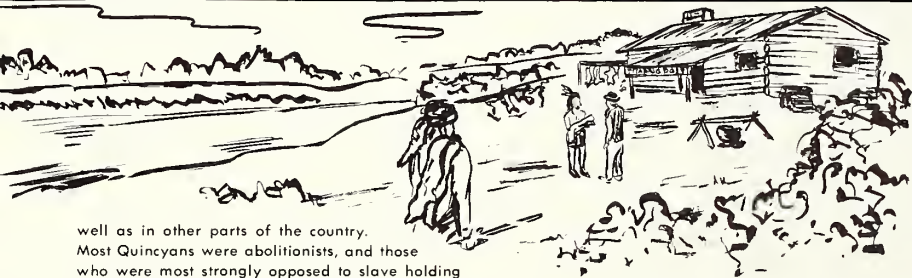
Early in 1825, the Illinois legislature created a new county here and named it Adams for John Quincy Adams who became president at that time. A commission was named to locate the site of the county seat, and the story is told that the three commissioners set out on horseback to select a location near the center of the county. It was the season for heavy rains, and after three days of plowing through marshes and mud, they returned home, not having been more than ten miles away, and named the existing village as county seat, calling it Quincy, also for the president. To complete the use of his name, legend says that the public square was called "John's Square."

By 1830, there were about 200 residents in the community, and the first merchant, Asher Anderson, built the first brick house, all others having been constructed of logs. The little community continued to grow, and in 1834, was incorporated as a town. Flour and saw mills flourished, for the fertile soil yielded excellent crops of grain; game was abundant; oak, hickory, and walnut timber came in quantity from the forests which were cut down to make way for the expanding community; and trade flourished. From these conditions came the nickname, The Gem City. In 1825, a post office was established at Quincy, the northernmost on the Mississippi. In 1835, the first newspaper, the Illinois Bounty Land Register, made its appearance, followed by a second, The Quincy Whig, in 1838. Later the name of the Register was changed to The Quincy Herald, and still later, in 1926, these two newspapers consolidated and became known as The Quincy Herald-Whig.

In 1840, under special charter, Quincy was incorporated as a city. Large numbers of German immigrants who had come by boat to New Orleans, continued their journey up the river and settled in Quincy, bringing to the community skilled craftsmen and high calibre citizens. Manufactures increased to include stoves, plows, household furniture, organs, carriages, and farm wagons. Several breweries and a distillery also flourished.

During these years of development, the question of slavery had become a growing issue in Quincy, as





well as in other parts of the country.

Most Quincyans were abolitionists, and those who were most strongly opposed to slave holding formed an abolition society. Quincy became an important part of the system known as the Underground Railway, by which slaves were assisted in escaping from their owners to make their way to freedom in Canada. Slaves were transported by boat from the banks of Missouri, a slave state, across the river to Illinois, a free state. Sympathizers concealed the fleeing slaves in their homes or at designated "stations" until they could be sent on to the next place and eventually to freedom in the north. This practice caused bitter feeling between the residents of the two states and on more than one occasion abolitionists from Illinois were captured, tried and imprisoned in Missouri.

Quincy also played an important part in the brief but tragic Illinois history of the Mormons. Driven out of Missouri in the winter of 1838-1839, there was much suffering and destitution among them. They found refuge in Quincy where they were kindly treated and sheltered before they proceeded to Nauvoo, fifty miles to the north.

As a river town, Quincy was important as a stop for travelers, and as a business and political center. John Wood was elected lieutenant governor of the state and in 1860 became the 12th governor of Illinois, filling a vacancy caused by the death of Governor Bissell. Stephen A. Douglas presided in the Circuit Court here, and later was elected to Congress and then to the Senate from this district. Here in John's Square, now known as Washington Park, on October 13, 1858, the sixth of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates was held. More than fifteen thousand people are said to have crowded the square to hear Lincoln draw from Douglas the admission that he favored permitting the states to settle for themselves the question of slavery within their borders, a statement which won election to the Senate for Douglas, but two years later went far toward electing Lincoln to the presidency. Orville H. Browning, a Kentuckian by birth, but a resident of Quincy from 1831, until his death in 1881, served in both houses of the Illinois legislature, and in the U. S. Senate before becoming Secretary of the Interior under President Andrew Johnson.

Nehemiah Bushnell, a Quincyan and law partner of Browning, was the genius who conceived the idea of a railroad connecting Quincy on the Mississippi, and Chicago on the Great Lakes. The state had planned to build a railroad between Quincy and Danville, but abandoned the project because of financial difficulties. However, it had secured a right-of-way out of Quincy for a considerable distance, and some ten miles

## STATUE OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

of grading had been done. Bushnell organized a local company and secured the state's right-of-way for a nominal sum and began the construction of a railroad toward Galesburg. After completing this road to Galesburg, he called a conference of the officials of the railroad from Galesburg to Chicago, and the railroad from Galesburg to Burlington, and succeeded in organizing these separate units as a whole. From this was born the great Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in the early 1850's. Bushnell was its first president.

With the advent of railroads in Illinois, the center of activity swung away from the river, but, while other cities have surpassed it in size, Quincy remains the largest city in an area of 100 miles in all directions, and retains the same sturdy independence which made possible the creation of a settlement in the wilderness more than 125 years ago. In addition to the Burlington, the Wabash Railroad also serves Quincy, and ten miles east of the city is Baldwin Field, Quincy's Class 4, municipal airport, named for Tam Baldwin, a native Quincyan and pioneer balloonist and parachutist, through whose efforts the parachute was developed.

The Quincy of today is a modern and progressive industrial city in the heart of a large and fertile agricultural area. Present manufacturers include electronic equipment such as radios, communications systems, broadcasting equipment of all kinds, television antennae, and other radio parts, air compressors, various kinds of pumps, and other equipment for mining and oil drilling, ranges, furnaces, wheels, truck and trailer bodies, poultry equipment, paper-board, containers, paper boxes, shoes, and mineral foods and stock preparations, as well as soybean oil, and various poultry and dairy products.

Wide, tree-lined streets lead to homes both large and small, and four excellent shopping centers provide quality merchandise for every purpose. In addition to modern elementary and secondary schools, Quincy is fortunate in having Quincy College an accredited 4-year, co-educational college, an excellent business school and a school of horology. Because of its excellent clinical and hospital facilities, the latter including a recognized school of nursing, Quincy is also known as a medical center. Quincy's churches represent every denomination except the Greek Orthodox. In the natural setting of the hills and bluffs, a system of parks provides many forms of recreation including such sports as tennis, golf, and swimming, with special play equipment, fishing and wading facilities for children. The river provides opportunity for fishing and many privately owned boats ranging from rowboats to cabin cruisers find harbor on Quincy Bay. Many clubs also provide social and cultural satisfaction in the fields of literature, art and music.



# QUINCY THE GEM CITY

Quincy's parks follow in port the scenically beautiful bluffs overlaking the river. Enter South Park from 12th Street, tour the park which is noted for its picnic facilities, playgrounds and shelter house; leave the park at 8th Street, crossing into Indian Mounds Park, named for the Indian burial mounds still to be seen there. These mounds have been faund to contain archealogical treasures of great value. The excavation of one may be seen at the Erroke Indian Mound Museum which is open to the public from May through October, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; adults 50c, children 25c. From the tops of two of these mounds across from the municipol swimming pool, there is o magnificent view of the river. Belaw ot the foot of the bluff may be seen the plant of Pockaging Corporation of Americo. and beyond the plant of Gordner-Denver, U. S. Lock and Dam No. 21, and broadcasting towers of WTAD. Ta the north may be seen the Quincy Memorial Bridge for vehicular ond pedestrian traffic, and beyond, the Chicogo, Burlington & Quincy Railroad bridge.

Riverview Park, which is the first in the northern choin of parks, may be entered from Chestnut Street at 2nd. Here, overlooking the river which banded on the west the territory which he and his men held for the colonies, is a statue of George Rogers Clark. The figure was designed by Charles J. Mulligan, director af Sculpture at the Chicogo Art Institute. Another magnificent view of the river is hod from this point, including the bridges, the U. S. Novol Reserve Training Center, Quincy Bay and the orea olang the bay being developed as Sid Simpson Stote Park, and on Bay Island itself where onother park is being developed by the Quincy Pork District. Follow the drives through Riverview Pork into Sunset Heights, ond on through Gordner Pork to 5th Street.





THE CASTLE



HISTORICAL BUILDING

Cross 5th Street into the grounds of Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Home, a state home provided for men from Illinois who have served in the armed services of their country. The home was opened in 1887, having been authorized by act of the Illinois General Assembly in 1885. The deer herd, the peafowl, and the swans on the lake which is formed in the shape of the state of Illinois, are of interest.

The Historical Building at 425 South 12th Street, the home of John Ward, Quincy's first settler, and later a governor of Illinois, houses an interesting collection of articles and materials pertaining to local history. It is maintained by the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. Visiting hours are 10:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon, 2:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m., weekdays except Monday; Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 5 p. m.; other times by appointment. Adult admission 25c.

The Moorish Villa Kathrine, at 532 South 3rd Street, was built early in the century as the dream castle of a young engaged couple, the style commemorating their romance on the sunny shores of the Mediterranean. The death of the bride-to-be ruined the dream, and after many vicissitudes the Castle, as it is known, became the property of the Quincy Park District, and now serves as a neighborhood community house.

Progress Park, an area of more than one hundred acres on North 36th Street, is now under development as the latest addition to the Quincy Park system.



QUINCY, ILLINOIS

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

